

**Introduced by Senator Cannella**  
**(Principal coauthor: Senator Galgiani)**  
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Gray and Olsen)

January 22, 2015

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An act relating to the University of California, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 131, as introduced, Cannella. University of California: medical education.

Existing provisions of the California Constitution establish the University of California as a public trust under the administration of the Regents of the University of California. The University of California system includes 10 campuses, which are located in Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

This bill would express findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to the role of the University of California with respect to access to health care in the San Joaquin Valley.

The bill would appropriate \$1,855,000 from the General Fund to the regents each fiscal year, commencing with the 2016–17 fiscal year, for allocation to the University of California to support expansion of the San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education, as specified.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3     (a) The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act  
4 provides millions of previously uninsured Californians access to  
5 health services, including physician care. As a result of this  
6 additional demand for physician services, California's projected  
7 statewide physician shortfall is 17,000 by 2015.

8     (b) The San Joaquin Valley, which runs from Stockton to  
9 Bakersfield, is rich in cultural diversity and is the nation's leading  
10 agricultural region. However, the valley is disproportionately  
11 affected by the state's physician shortage, which is expected to  
12 intensify in the years ahead given the high rate of population  
13 growth in the area. Access to health care is 31 percent lower in the  
14 San Joaquin Valley than in the rest of California.

15     (c) Several regions of the San Joaquin Valley are federally  
16 designated Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs). The calculation  
17 of MUAs involves four variables: ratio of primary medical care  
18 physicians per 1,000 population, infant mortality rate, percentage  
19 of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and  
20 percentage of the population 65 years of age or over.

21     (d) UC Merced's San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical  
22 Education (PRIME) is providing a key interim resource for training  
23 valley health care providers. This program accomplishes all of the  
24 following:

25     (1) Strengthens the desire for new physicians to practice in the  
26 San Joaquin Valley, which is one of California's most medically  
27 underserved areas.

28     (2) Reduces health disparities and inequalities in the San Joaquin  
29 Valley.

30     (3) Forms lasting relationships between the program and  
31 communities, hospitals, clinics, and physicians to enhance health  
32 care in the region.

33     (e) Students who take part in PRIME benefit from firsthand  
34 experience with interdisciplinary health care by providing care in  
35 medically underserved communities, working with patients and  
36 families from culturally diverse backgrounds, and developing a  
37 true understanding of the issues and conditions that impact access  
38 to and quality of health care in the region.

1 (f) Despite its numerous benefits for its region, PRIME lacks  
2 an ongoing source of funding for its current enrollment as well as  
3 the financial resources to expand capacity to meet the needs of the  
4 valley.

5 (g) Given the San Joaquin Valley's health care needs, it is  
6 essential for the State of California to continue developing the  
7 valley's health care resources by sustaining the current PRIME  
8 enrollment and expanding that program's capacity.

9 SEC. 2. The sum of one million eight hundred fifty-five  
10 thousand dollars (\$1,855,000) is hereby appropriated from the  
11 General Fund to the Regents of the University of California each  
12 fiscal year, commencing with the 2016–17 fiscal year, for  
13 allocation to the University of California to support expansion of  
14 the San Joaquin Valley PRIME program to admit up to 12 students  
15 per year and operate the program with up to 48 student participants  
16 from across the four-year curriculum annually.